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THE BROOKE FAMILY.

By Prof. ST. GEORGE TUCKER BROOKE, Charlestown, W. Va.

(CONTINUED.)

DESCENDANTS OF GOV. ROBERT BROOKE.

b. 1761 (?). d. Feb. 27, 1800.

1. Mary Ann Richie, m. Samuel C. Boekins; had issue: two daughters, Betty Carter and Sue Brooke, both d. unmarried. 2. Charlotte Tompkins, d. y. 3. Elizabeth Tate, m. Dr. William Ring; no issue. 4. Selina Richard, m. Charles Thornton; no issue. 5. Robert Thomas Brooke, m. 1st, Elizabeth Vaden; m. 2d, Catharine Dabney Morris. The children of (5) Robert Thomas Brooke and Elizabeth Vaden were, viz: 1. Thomas Vaden, who m. Fanny Baylor Doswell, and their children were Elizabeth, Catherine, George Doswell, who m. Sue Scott Herbert, and have a daughter, Sue Herbert Brooke;* Robert Thomas, Fanny Doswell, Richard. 2. Richard, m. Nannie Daniel; no issue. 3. Robert Cunningham, d. y. 4. Charles Herbert Brooke, m. Miriam Eleanor Harbaugh; have three sons, George Herbert, Robert Webster and Richard Tate. The children of (5) Robert Thomas Brooke and Catherine Dabney Morris were Lizzie Vaden, Emily Taylor and two sons who died in infancy.

* NOTE.—Sue Herbert Brooke's (paternal) grandmother, Fanny Baylor Doswell, was the daughter of George W. Doswell, whose parents were Paul T. Doswell and Fanny Gwathmey. Fanny Gwathmey's mother was Ann Baylor, and *her* mother Molly Brooke, daughter of Humphrey Brooke, Sr., and Elizabeth Braxton his wife. Thus the blood of Major Robert Brooke of the Horseshoe, and that of his "Loving Brother Humphrey Brooke", intermingles in the veins of this baby and her father after as it were, almost two hundred years.

DR. T. V. BROOKE, Sutherlin, Va.

The writer acknowledges the great aid given by Dr. T. V. Brooke, Sutherlin, Va., in the preparation of the sketch of Governor Brooke.

DR. LAURENCE BROOKE, OF THE BON HOMME RICHARD.

(b. August, 1758 (?) d. 1803 (?).

The historical facts that Dr. Laurence Brooke was appointed by the sage and venerable Dr. Benjamin Franklin the surgeon of the Bon Homme Richard, his admirable conduct on the bloody deck of that vessel during the battle, and later on the bloody deck of the *Scrapis*, and his year service under the famous Paul Jones, overshadow the rest of

the facts of his life; but there are others worthy of mention. He was born about August 23, 1758, at Smithfield, on the Rappahannock river, four miles below Fredericksburg, Va. He was the oldest child of Richard Brooke, (a) who was the youngest son of Robert Brooke, Jr., of Farmer's Hall, Essex, Va., who was "the eldest son and heir" of Robert Brooke, Sr., (b) of Farmer's Hall, who was commissioned by the Governor of Virginia a Justice of the Peace of Essex county, 1692, and sat upon the bench of the County Court until 1708. His father, about 1774, sent him and a younger brother, Robert—the older to study medicine, the younger to study law—"to Edinburgh College at an early age." (c) He did not matriculate in the faculty of medicine until 1776; maybe he delayed his matriculation until he had finished his preparatory course. During our Revolution, about 1778, he escaped from Edinburgh to Paris before graduating in medicine or anything else. Excluding his year service under Paul Jones, he must have lived in Paris for four years—from 1778 to 1783; but after a lapse of one hundred and twenty-seven years we are unable to hear even an echo of his four years' life in that city. He went, December, 1778, or January, 1779, to Nantes to offer his services to Jones. His services were accepted. The Bon Homme Richard sailed from l'Orient, France, in late July, 1779.

The celebrated battle between the Bon Homme Richard and the Serapis took place off Flamborough Head, northeast coast of England, September 23, 1779. Dr. Brooke and Paul Jones separated in 1780. In that year probably the young brothers met again in Paris, Dr. Brooke having completed his memorable cruise with Jones, and Robert, for the second time, having escaped from Edinburgh. Why did not Dr. Brooke accompany his brother to Virginia on the French man-of-war which reached the United States in the fall of 1780? It is certain that he did not sail with Jones from l'Orient, October 8, 1780, on the Ariel, which anchored at Philadelphia, February 18, 1781. But he remained in Paris for three years longer. Perhaps he remained to get his degree of M. D. from the Parisian Medicinal University. Perhaps, too, the medicinal authorities of Paris would have refused, or did actually refuse to allow him to practice his profession without a degree. In either event he must have continued to draw upon his father for money for three years

(a) The wife of Richard Brooke was Ann Hay Taliaferro, born September 7, 1731; the wife of Robert Brooke, Jr., the knight of the Golden Horseshoe, was Phæbe —; the wife of Robert Brooke, Sr., was Catherine, daughter of Humphrey Booth, Sr., and sister of Humphrey Booth, Jr. This Magazine, January, 1902, p. 317.

(b) Our only authority that Farmer's Hall was the homestead of Robert Brooke, Sr., is this Magazine, April, 1902, p. 436. Farmer's Hall is the homestead of the Sale family, who are the lineal descendants of Mrs. Mollie Sale, who was a daughter of the aforesaid Robert Brooke, Jr. This Magazine, January, 1907, p. 326.

(c) See this Magazine, January, 1911, p. 101, for a letter from the University of Edinburgh regarding the medical education of Dr. Brooke.

longer. "Dr. Drooke, who had studied medicine in Edinburgh, had *now*" (August 1783,) "*commenced* the practice of physic" (*d*) at Smithfield or Fredericksburg, nine years after he started from Smithfield to Edinburgh. Subsequently, he married Frances Thornton, but we do not know who she was further than that she was a distant cousin through the Taliaferros. He qualified as administrator of the estate of his father, who died in 1792. He practiced medicine for at least twenty years in Fredericksburg. About 1803 he died in that town in the house which his brother-in-law, Fontaine Maury, built, and in which his niece, the mother of the late Gen. Dabney Herndon Maury, was born. He had only two adult children, both daughters, both married—one an Alexander, the other, Sarah L., married John Wishart Taliaferro, and both left children.

Our authority that "Dr. Brooke was appointed by Dr. Franklin surgeon of the Bon Homme Richard" is Judge Brooke. Of course, he thought he got his information from his brother, whom we must accept as good authority on that point. But we think we know enough of the character and temper of Paul Jones to feel assured that he had something to say in regard to the appointment of a boy as surgeon on a man-of-war of which he was commander, and which was soon going out to hunt for a fight. At that period there were few, if any, educated American surgeons in France. Paul Jones had lived in Fredericksburg for two years, and was a citizen of Virginia when he accepted a commission in the Continental Navy, dated December 22, 1775. Judge Brooke met him in Fredericksburg in the tailor shop of William Paul, brother of Paul Jones (*e*). On that occasion little Frank, aged ten years, went to the tailor's shop to get his new suit of clothes. Probably that when Dr. Brooke, December, 1778, went from Paris to Nantes to offer his services to Jones he took with him a letter of strong recommendation from Dr. Franklin. Probably, too, Dr. Franklin and Jones were favorably impressed (as John Adams was two months later) with the cultivated mind of the young doctor, and with the *result* of his social environment in Colonial Virginia. The index of volumes of the "Life and Writings of Benjamin Franklin" does not contain the name "Brooke." In the collection of Paul Jones' MSS in the Library of Congress there are ten letters from and to Jones in which Dr. Brooke is mentioned, but there is no reference to Dr. Franklin. In the true MS letters between Jones and Brooke, dated "On board the Alliance, Frigate, Texel Road, 4th December, 1779," in which there is mention of the origin of Dr. Brooke's appointment, Jones says: "When you at Nantes offered your services to America." Neither Paul Jones nor Dr. Brooke refers to Dr. Frank-

(*d*) Judge Brooke's "Narrative." The Italics are ours.

(*e*) This Magazine, January, 1900, p. 236; *Ibid*, April, 1901, p. 422; *Ibid*, July, 1905, p. 87 (foot note).

lin in connection with Dr. Brooke's "embarking in Character of Surgeon on the Bon Homme." John Adams says (*f*) that himself and his son, John Quincy Adams, aged twelve years, February 13, 1779, "went on board the Poor Richard" at l'Orient, France; there met Paul Jones and "Dr. Brooks." February 13th, John Adams dined at the L'Epée Royal with Captain Jones, "Dr. Brooks" and others, "officers of the Poor Richard." "February 14th. On board, ill of a cold. Many gentlemen came on board to visit me. A Dr. Brooks, surgeon to the Poor Richard, drank tea with me." How happened it that "Dr. Brooks" remained to drink tea tête-à-tête with that illustrious statesman? He says: "This Dr. Brooks is a gentleman of family whose father has a great fortune and good character in Virginia," etc. How did he learn so much about the family of Smithfield? We believe he got his information from Paul Jones himself. We believe that Jones's knowledge of the Smithfield family was a determining influence for obtaining a twenty-year-old boy for the important post of surgeon of the Bon Homme Richard. The following extract from John Adams's diary shows Dr. Brooke in a pleasing light as a young man of education and of intellectual tastes (*g*): "February 12, 1779. As I sit in my quarter-gallery we are sailing directly in Port-Louis, at l'Orient," etc. . . . "February 13, 1779. Went ashore; Captain Landais, myself and my son went on board of the Poor Richard. February 13. Went on shore and dined with Captatn Jones at the Epée Royal; M. A. Miel, Mr. Dick, Dr. Brooks, officers of the Poor Richard," etc. "Dr. Brooks (in high humor) 'Pray, sir, which, in your opinion, is the best?' etc. . . . "After dinner, walked out with Captain Jones and Landais to see Jones's marines, etc., . . . after which Jones came on board our ship. This is the most ambitious and intriguing officer in the American Navy. Jones has art and secrecy, and aspires very high. You see the character of the man in his uniform, etc. Eccentricities and irregularities are to be expected from him. They are in his character; they are visible in his eyes," etc. "February 14. On board ill of a cold. Many gentlemen came on board to visit me. A Dr. Brooks, surgeon to the Poor Richard, drank tea with me. He seems to be well acquainted with philosophical experiments. I led him to talk upon this subject. He had much to say about phlogiston, fix air, gas, &c. Finding he had ideas of these things, I led him to talk of the ascent of vapors in the atmosphere, and I found

(*f*) Works of John Adams, Vol. III, pp. 200-2.

(*g*) In the absence of any formal written declaration of the date of the birth of Dr. Brooke it is not entirely certain he was very young, but it is probable that he was. Judge Brooke says his father was born in 1732, and he himself and twin brother, John, were born August 27, 1763. The only sister was youngest of all and Dr. Brooke was oldest of all, with the only one brother, Robert, between Dr. Brooke and Judge Brooke. It is probable that Dr. Brooke was not more than five years older than Judge Brooke.

he had considered this subject. He mentioned a natural history of North and South Carolina, in four volumes, folio, with stamps of all the plants and animals; price, twenty-five guineas. He mentioned a Dr. Ewing and a Dr. Black, of Glasgow, as great philosophers whose hints Priestley had taken. This Dr. Brooke is a gentleman of family whose father has a great fortune and good character in Virginia," etc. (h) "February 15. Went on shore and dined with Captain Jones at L'Espée, Mr. Hill, Captain Cazneau, Captain Young, Mr. Dick, Dr. Brooks and Mr. Gourlarde, &c., and another aide-de-camp of the Marquise."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

THE CHILES FAMILY IN VIRGINIA.

(Compiled by W. B. CRIDLIN, Richmond, Va.)

(CONTINUED.)

FOURTH GENERATION.

JOHN CHILES,⁴ (JOHN³, W², W¹.)

Lived in King William county in 1761. He died without issue, 1774. In his will, dated October 10, 1774, he bequeaths his property jointly to his two nieces, viz: Olive Edwards Martin, daughter of his sister Susannah, wife of Joseph Martin, and Mary Wright, daughter of his sister Jane, wife of John Wright. (Spotts. Records and *William and Mary Quarterly*, I, 78.)

HENRY CHILES⁴ (JOHN³, W², W¹.)

Lived in Spotsylvania, in the section now embraced in Caroline county, in 1736. Patented land in Henrico (now Goochland) in 1725, 1727 and 1738. Patented land in Goochland in 1739 and 1743.

His first wife was Mary Carr, daughter of Capt. Thomas Carr. In some of the Spotsylvania records her name is written Marcy and Mercy.

In 1756, having married Susannah Graves, *nee* Dicken, widow of William Graves, he executed bond to protect William Graves, the younger, in his sixth part of his father's estate. The same year he executed a deed of gift to his second son, John.

His will, dated 1763, was proved in Spotsylvania. By this he is shown to have eleven children. As his second wife had six children by her first husband, there was quite a household. The will mentions his sons, Walter, John, William, (land purchased of Mr. Baylor), Henry, (the

(h) From that conversation between Mr. Adams and Dr. Brooke we may infer that Mr. Adams thought Dr. Brooke was only intelligent and interesting.